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WILL THE PLAN ROLL ?

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IT is widely suspected that the genisis of the rolling plan is the Finance Ministry's anxiety to reduce planning to one of annual budgeting.

The new Planning Commission has by necessity to function in a far harsher economic milieu than its predecessor and it would be excessively optimistic if it thinks that it can retain the plan targets it has drawn up for fulfilment.

What might well happen in the circumstances is that the targets set for a five year period would be put off to the year after the Plan rolls on under the dictates of the power that be.

This is enough evidence to indicate that the planners and their natural allies, the bureaucrats, understand realism in planning as something that makes the least demands on the efforts needed for achieving reasonably fast economic development and causes the least pain to those who have become used to comfort, no matter how urgent it really is to alleviate the suffereings of the millions of the masses.

MERIT OF EARLIER APPROACH

One of the merits of the earlier approach for implementing programmes of economic development through a time bound five year plan was that it did impose a commitment on the planners for producing perceptible results with in five years. The accelaration of economic development cannot be brought about unless there was such a commitment.

There has, of course, been a great deal of disenchantment with what had actually happened during the past quarter century of planning because the achievement have been woefully inadequate.

—R. K. Lakshman in Times of India.

THE ASSURANCE

With the possible exception of the First Plan, most of the targets laid down for the subsequent five-year plans very hardly fulfilled within the specified periods. But does this now give the new planners and the government a valid excuse for making a departure from the planning practices hither to followed ?

Does the new rolling plan strategy really hold out hopes of achieving a greater dynamism in planning ? Dr. Raj Krishna, Member, Planning Commission, has given his questioners the assurance that that is precisely what is intended by the new planners.

The Planning member's charge against the erstwhile planners was that they were unrealistic in formulating plan targets. By this he implied that after laying down the targets, the previous Planning Commission went to sleep for the next two years before making an assessment of what had been achieved and it necessarily had to scale down the targets. The final achievements fell short of even the scaled down targets.

According to Dr Raj Krishna, among the several virtues of the rolling plan will be its "realism" in working out the implementable plan targets.

PRESUMPTION

The hopes that the rolling plan will achieve a greater acceleration of economic development rest on the presumption that there will be a five-year plan exercise every year instead of once in five years. Every year, the Planning Commission will plan for the next five years and lay down targets for achievement. At the end of every year, there will be a review of the performance achieved and the plan targets for the next five-year period will be laid down on this basis.

But is Dr Raj Krishna really being fair to erstwhile planners when he charges them with (a) not paying enough attention to

(Contd. on page 7)

Naxalites After Mrs Gandhi?

PRIME MINISTER Morarji Desai in an interview with three Gujarati Dailies, is reported to have said that the arrest of Mrs. Gandhi, was not a matter for Cabinet decision.

He had, however, insisted that the case be thoroughly examined and only if necessary she should be arrested.

Asked why Mrs. Gandhi was given so much time before arrest Mr. Desai said she did not want to leave her house and it was not thought fair to pull her out. If it had been a man there would have been not much delay.

Mr. Desai said a close associate of Mrs. Gandhi met him on Monday and sought special security arrangements for her. The associate had informed him that six Naxalites recently released from jail were out to make an attempt on the life of Mrs. Gandhi. The associate gave the names of the Naxalites.

Mr. Desai regretted that Mrs. Gandhi, on the one hand, was asking for police protection and, on the other accusing Janata Government of atro ities.

Replying to a question on Mrs. Gandhi's allegation during her Gujarat visit that Janata workers were attacking her party men, Mr. Desai said he was prepared to order an investigation into any specific case brought to his notice.

—Indian Express

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

I claim no perfection for myself. But I do claim to be a passionate seeker after Truth, which is but another name for God.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Oct. 16, 1977

BONUS FOR RAILWAYMEN

Prime Minister Morarji Desai has said 'No' to the railway men's demand for bonus.

He told a deputation that railwaymen who worked under a departmental undertaking, had not been covered even earlier by the bonus act.

But the Railway Minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate has spoken not only for railwaymen but also for employees of the Posts and Telegraph Department, Defence Services and Central and State governments.

Within 24 hours of the Prime Minister's categorical refusal, the Railway Minister told a rally of Janata Party workers in Pune, that the bonus issue for these employees "will be considered in stages."

With regard to any government Policy, the Prime Minister has once explained that his statement only is valid.

Workers in general are not satisfied with the alleged freedom the Janata Party has given them. They can understand it only in terms of cash.

Two major accidents have occurred within a brief period taking a heavy toll. Perhaps the hungry railwaymen are not able to concentrate on their work. Hence the matter has became all the more urgent.

We hope Mr. Dandavate with the support of Mr. Fernandes will find an early solution to the problem.

Of Men And Matters

Taking Hindi To United Nations

HINDI fanatics may feel glorified that at last India's prestige has been heightened in the eyes of the world when the External Affairs Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, chose to address the members of the United Nations in chaste Hindi.

Except that the effort has given a boost to the sentiments of the Hindi-speaking sections of the Indian nation, it has in no way convinced the rest of the world that India has achieved the capacity to express herself in a language of her own to the outside world.

The communications facilities obtaining at General Sessions of the United Nations are not so ripe as to accommodate the simultaneous translation of Hindi into languages other than English, French, German and Chinese. This being the case, the message in Hindi of Mr. Vajpayee to the world body could not have reached with effectiveness those representing parts of Europe, Latin America and the entire African countries although translations of his speech would have been available to them later through hand outs.

The jubilacation now gained by the pro-Hindi sections of the community can only be short lived since it cannot be said that even in the future, every one of India's External Affairs Minister or the nation's perman nt representative to the UN would be able to deliver his message in Hindi if he were to emanate from a non-Hindi-speaking area.

The enlightened world has great respect for India as a nation which strives for International peace, understanding and friendship and at the same time acknowledging her vast diversity in language and culture. It therefore sounds comical if, at intervals, India's spokesman in the United Nations express themselves in a language that cannot carry her message simultaneously or make herself understood by a majority of the world's nations. —DEEVEE.

Reader Writes :

Emergency And Crime

Sir,

The occurrence of crime and lawlessness in Madras city has increased manyfold after the cessation of Emergency. This is evident by reports in newspapers of frequent burglaries in the posh localities and the hold-ups in broad daylight of young women by thugs.

During the Emergency reporting of crime was never suppressed in the columns of the newspapers and yet there were not so many incidents to be reported. Probably the police were able to takle crime more effectively because manpower in the force was available easily, whereas now the bulk of the sections kept to man the police stations and the street are deployed to attend to labour unrest, strikes and morchas.

It is time that the Police Commissioner activates a special cell whose duty it would be only to deal with crimes.

A. RAMAMURTHY
Madras.

FIR In Indira Case : Some Inconsistencies

By SUMAN DUBEY

INFORMATION now available suggests that the First Information Report, filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in its case against the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the former Petroleum Minister, Mr. K.D. Malaviya and the former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum, Mr. B.B. Vohra, does not correspond with the known facts and that it contains some in-correct statements and glosses over pertinent details.

The crux of the FIR is that an agreement was signed between CFP, a French petroleum company, and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for a technical services contract for 17 million dollars ignoring the claims of an American company, Geoman, a subsidiary of Gulf Oil, which had offered "similar" services for only 4 million dollars. The apparent loss of 13 million dollars is attributed to the accused acting "in concert... actuated by mala fide considerations and ulterior motives." The charge is that they misused their authority, and corruption is implied from the sections under which they are charged.

A reading of the report of the negotiating committee set up by the Government to handle this contract reveals a different picture from that in the FIR. The negotiations were concluded in January 1977, the report was written early in February recommending CFP for the contract, and the contract was signed in April.

The decision to sign the contract, therefore, was recommended not specifically by any of the accused individually but by the four members of the committee. They were Mr. B.B. Vohra, one of the accused, Mr. N.B. Prasad, chairman, ONGC, Mr. G. Ramachandran, secretary (expenditure), and Dr. Man Mohan Singh, secretary (economic affairs), both Ministry of Finance.

The FIR makes no mention of this but speaks in general of the efforts of the accused to push through the contract irrespective of the consequences. At one point it says that the Department of Economic Affairs had been ignored by the Ministry of Petroleum when it protested that the price demanded by CFP was too high. The FIR does not explain how the secretary of this department, who had been overruled, then agreed to recommend the contract.

The contention in the FIR that the negotiating committee "did not go into the question of comparing the CFP and Geoman proposals or inviting Geoman also to come to the negotiating table with a comparable offer" is not

(Contd. on page 7)

THEY LACK COURAGE

The arrest by CBI, and the later release by a Delhi magistrate, of the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi have revealed one important factor. The government employees have not learnt anything from recent developments in the country and the exciting revelations before the Shah Commission.

This has upset even our Home Minister, Mr. Charan Singh. And he expressed his feelings plainly at a Lucknow rally recently.

He said the present government had made it known that civil servants and police officers should have the moral courage to dissent whenever they were asked to do something illegal or against the provisions of the constitution. If need be they should be ready to resign rather than kill their conscience.

The Home Minister told the policemen: "You should have the moral courage to express your views fearlessly if you think any order to be wrong even if it emanates from me."

They didn't have the moral courage and brought down the reputation of the Janata Party and some of its leaders.

Brave Woman Nabs Robber

Robbed by a gang, a woman passenger in the speeding Kashi Vishwanath Express last night (Oct. 8) captured one of the fleeing criminals.

The man was handed over to the railway police at Moradabad where passengers have filed first information reports on the robbery.

The victims were Dr (Mrs) Jayshree of the Government Women's Hospital, Varnasi, Dr (Miss) Premalatha Sharma of the Department of Music, Banaras Hindu University, and Mr Pravin Kumar Jain a businessman of Muzaffarnagar.

Dr Jayshree, the plucky woman, who captured the robber, told that she was travelling in the ladies cubicle of a three-tier coach with five other passengers. The robbery took place shortly after midnight.

She said that earlier around 11 p.m. the purse of one of her fellow passengers was snatched when she went to the toilet. The coach attendant was told of the matter. They had dozed into an uneasy sleep when she was woken by a stranger who snatched her suitcase and passed it out to his companions. She raised an alarm.

Dr Jayshree said the robbers ran towards the vestibule connecting the coach with the adjoining sleeper coach. An opening had been cut open in the vestibule through which the robbers had gone up to compartment's roof. When she reached the spot, the last of them was being lifted up through the opening She caught his legs and clung to him despite vicious kicks on her face. Other passengers came to her help, and the train was halted. Meanwhile the gang had disappeared.

Unexplored World of Tiny Spiders

Poisonous spiders are no more man's enemies according to homoeopathic researchers.

Some 40,000 species of spiders and scorpions that crawl the earth could yield some 'near-miraculous' homoeopathic drugs for various ailments, particularly the nervous deiseases resulting from the hectic life of modern man.

This hope was expressed by a number of homoeopathic scientists, who discussed the role of spider venom in homeopathy at the International Homeopathic Congress at New Delhi on Oct 9.

They said snake venom had already yielded invaluable drugs for the homoeopaths particularly for treating heart diseases.

The "potency" associated with venom of the most poisonous snakes did wonders for the homoeopath. But the vast world of the tiny spiders remained unexplored, they lamented, and pleaded for intensive research into the secrets of spider poison.

Day Centre for The Old

The kindergarten, creche or baby minder is a long-established solution to the problem of raising a family and going out to work. But what are you to do about ageing relatives who really need care and attention in the course of the day? Many old people are understandably reluctant to allow themselves to be sent to an old folk's home.

Hamburg has taken the lead in the Federal Republic of Germany by opening day centres for old people. While younger members of the family go out to work the old people can congregate in a congenial atmosphere with care and attention available and without feeling they are an intolerable burden on the family.

The Centres serve three meals a day and lend a hand with personal hygiene and medicine if required. Newspapers and magazines are available, as are handicrafts and games to help pass the time. The centres are a twelve-month experiment. In a year's time the city welfare department will decide whether they have proved their worth and are here to stay.

Sri Sai Baba Mahasamadhi Day

SRI Sai Baba Mahasamadhi Day will be celebrated on Friday, October 24, 1977 between 5 and 10 p. m. at Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir. Shenoynagar, Madras says a communication from the Chairman and Executive Committee of Sri Sai Baba Bhaktha Samajam of which H. H. Swami Kesavaiahji is the Founder—President.

Sri K. Narayanaswami Mudaliar, Minister for Law, will be presiding over the public meeting. Sri V. P. V. Rajan, Editor, THE MAIL will speak, it adds.

Devotees are cordially invited to attend the function and receive Prasadam and blessings of Sri Swamiji.

Swami Kesavaiahji Extols Pure Bhakthi

INVOKING the blessings of Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi, Swami Kesavaiahji, founder-president of Sri Sai Baba Bhaktha Samajam, Shenoynagar, Madras, inaugurated the Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Bhaktha Samajam of Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh on October 10.

Speaking on the occasion the revered Swamiji called upon the devotees to have implicit faith in Bhakthi Marga and surrender oneself totally to God without any reservation whatever which alone would lead to Mukthi.

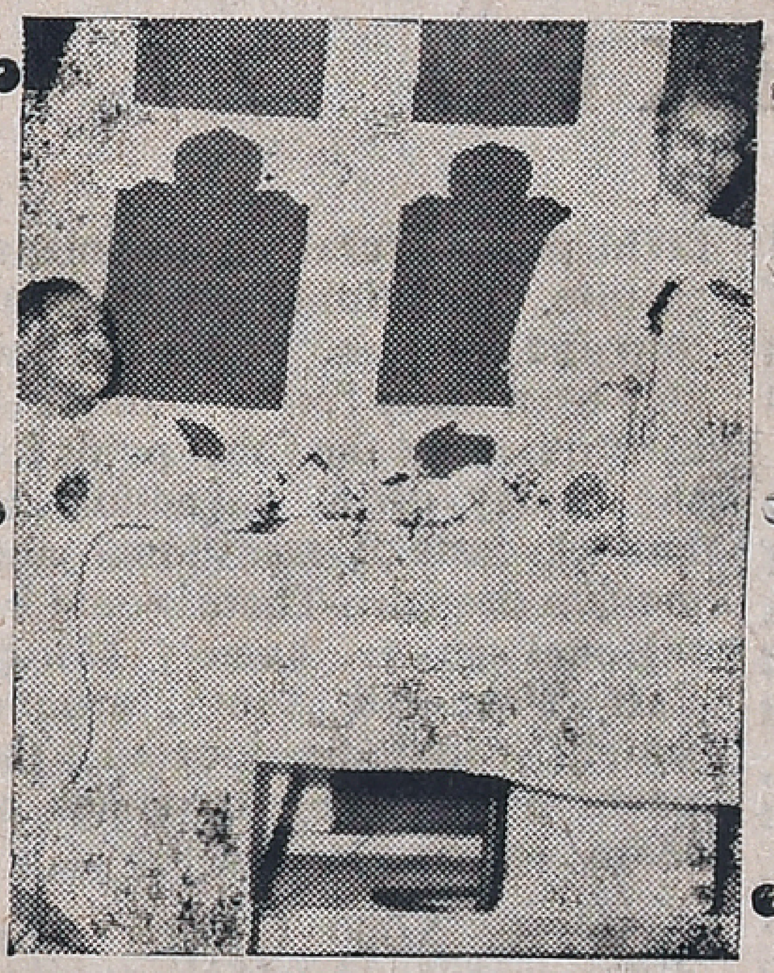
CALL FOR COOPERATION

Swami Kesavaiahji solicited the co-operation of all the citizens for the growth of the Samajam and work for the construction of a Sai Mandir at Karimnagar.

His Holiness pointed out that Sai Baba always responded to the call of a sincere devotee immediately and it was Baba's characteristic to free any person who surrenders to him completely.

LIMIT AMBITION

"It is not necessary to go to the forest or to leave one's wife and children. He is a great man who lives in samsar and faces all troubles. No ambition is a crime, but it should be limited," Swami Kesavaiahji said.



Swami Kesavaiahji addressing the devotees inaugurating Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Bhaktha Samajam in Karimnagar. Sri J. Chokka Rao, A. P. Minister for Agriculture is seen listening to the discourse.

His sincere advice was: Speak the truth. Do not be jealous of another person's prosperity. God knows what to give and when to give it.

Addressing women devotees on the occasion he told them to be loyal and faithful; do their household duties, look after their children and to bring them up well by narrating to them stories of God's leelas and to inculcate morals in them and to ask them to obey the elders.

GRAND RECEPTION

On his arrival at Karimnagar on the evening of October 9, His Holiness was accorded a reception on the lawns of the Municipal Town Hall. Mr. Chokka Rao, Minister for Agriculture, received the Swamiji and took him to the venue of the meeting. Members of the Reception Committee welcomed the Swamiji with Poorna Kumbham

Swami Kesavaiahji receiving the welcome address from Sri M. Ramakrishna Rao.

amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns. Mr. Chokka Rao presided over the public meeting.

On the evening of October 10, Swami Kesavaiahji addressed the students of S. R. R. Government College under the presidentship of Sri K. Y. L. Narasimha Rao, Principal of the College.

ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Addressing the students, Swamiji said that we reached God by whatever path we took. Relating the life history of Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi, he advised the students not to resort to strikes or to destroy public property. He exhorted the student body to have faith in God and to think of him at least for a few minutes daily.

Sri Emmanuel, Secretary of the Literary Association proposed a vote of thanks.

Swamiji distributed Udhi Prasadam to the staff members of the College, their families and to the students.

RECORD GATHERING

More than 3,000 people attended the spiritual meeting which is a record for any gathering at Karimnagar. Dr. V. Seshagiri Rao explained in brief the growth and development of Sai cult at Karimnagar pinpointing his own personal experiences and how he became a devotee of Sri Sri Baba after visiting Shirdi which is one of the most neatly maintained place of worship in the country.

Search For A Centenarian

MY editor gave me an assignment to find a centenarian and write a story about him, thus providing readers with a recipe for long life. We didn't want an ascetic for a model, but somone fond of life who had lived long and merrily. All the old men I approached on the street weren't suitable. Either they were under the century mark or else they immediately launched into a lecture on the evils of alcohol and smoking.

I was also disappointed in the talk I had with a robust old man who had topped 100 years.

"I am 133 years old but I am still strong! Do you want to know how to live to be as old as I am?"

I did. But when the old fellow began to expound on the virtues of a vegetarian diet and fresh air and declared war on meat and fish, I took advantage of the crowd of idlers that had gathered and quietly crept away.

My search went on for a long time until, at last, I told myself: I've found him!

He was a pretty feeble, bent-over man. As he passed me, I noted that his face bore the imprint of at least 150 years.

"Excuse me," I addressed him, "I'd like to ask you a few questions, if you don't mind."

Preparing to listen, he pulled out a cigarette.

"You smoke?" I almost jumped for joy. "Have you been smoking long?"

"Since the age of 12." With a trembling hand he lit his cigarette. "As soon as I wake up in the morning I light up. And I chain-smoke all day long"

I soon learned that my interlocutor was by no means a vegetarian: he grimaced when I mentioned fruit, vegetables and milk, I had my hero!

"So, meat is your main staple," I repeated. "But you will agree that with a good steak of dram or two is not a miss sometimes. How do you feel about this?"

"Affirmatively. Only why 'sometimes'? For breakfast and dinner and supper..."

"How old are you?"

"Let me think. Lately my memory has been going. What year is this?"

I told him.

"That means..." the old man began to mumble to himself, counting on his fingers. "That means I must be 33 already".

He was going to add something, but I was already on my way.

—*Antanas Tamalluvas*

AGRI EXPO '77

THE biggest ever agricultural exhibition Agri-Expo '77 will be held at Pragati Maidan from November 14 to December 13, 1977 in New Delhi.

The exposition will highlight achievements in all sectors of agriculture and provide glimpses of the beauty and variegated richness of rural India. Important crops like rice, wheat and jowar; forest products like timber, paper products, rubber, lac, resins, wood pulp; forestry equipment, meat, poultry, fishery and dairy; food processing and canning; fibres like cotton, jute, coir mesta, wool, silk, handwoven and mill-made textiles; animal breeding, animal husbandry, veterinary services and animal foods; and beverages, fruits and vegetables would be on display. Special emphasis on rural industries, including tanneries and leather products will also be laid.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has taken the sprawling Hall of Nations and Hall of Industries to portray achievements in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and all allied subjects. Special emphasis will be given to all round rural development with an accent on small and marginal farmers and tribals.

There would be a large 'Rural India Complex' at the fair for highlighting rural environment, culture, traditional craftsmanship and folklore. Provisions had also been made for a 'bullock-cart square' as the focal point for the display of a collection of bullock-carts of traditional and modern designs. There would be regional *chowks*, namely North, East, West and South, around which would be located the pavilion belonging to states of these regions.

About 5,000 farmers from different states would be brought to the Fair under the Krishi Darshan Scheme. Railway concession at half the regular rate is available to groups of farmers of not less than 20. The concession forms are available at the Railway Stations. For further details contact the Department of Agriculture in each state.

Hissing Back

When at a pay carpark in Oldenburg, West Germany, the attendant sought to fine a motorist for overstaying the paid time, the latter extracted from his suitcase a hissing two-yard-long snake. Police restrained the "envenomed" motorist with great pains.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

THE BIDDER!

A farmer bought a parrot for fifty rupees at an auction sale. When the sale was over he asked the auctioneer, "Does this bird talk intelligently?"

"You ought to know," said the auctioneer. "He's the only one that was bidding against you!"

* * *

BETWEEN TWO FIRES

"Ah, good morning, Mrs. Murphy, and how is everything?"

"Oh, I'm having a great time of it between my husband and the fire. If I keep an eye on the one, the other is sure to go out".

* * *

HIS COMPLAINT

Boy's complaint: "My mother's awful funny. When we have minced pie or frosted cake she asks me if I want some; but when we have spinach she just gives it to me".

x x x

GAMBLE!

First Scot: "Do ye ever gamble, Mac?"

Second Scot: "Weel! Sometimes I do spend a nickel to phone a girl to ask her for a date".

* * *

NOT YET!

"Now," said the hypnotist, "I shall make this man forget everything".

"Hold on," yelled a man in the back row, "he owes me a fiver".

* * *

REAL SPORT

The nurse tiptoed up to her patient: "The doctor says your wife may speak to you—but for five minutes".

"That's the sort of doctor I like," said the patient. "He's a sport".

x x x

BLESSING!

First Clerk: "Poor old Watkins has lost his hearing. I'm afraid it will cost him his job."

Second Clerk: "Nonsense. The management has transferred him to the complaint department".

x x x

LAST WISH

Cannibal Chief: "Have you anything to say before we eat you?"

Victim (a public speaker:) "May I be permitted to say a few words on the advantages of vegetarianism?"

x x x

IT FOLLOWS

"Yes, it looks nice, but how do you know it's a genuine twentieth century table?"

"Look at the legs where they were cut down owing to the fuel shortage."

x x x

OVERHEAD EXPENSE!

Husband (annoyed): "Another new hat. Aren't you playing with our budget?"

Wife: "Why, no dear. You know we made a liberal allowance for overhead expenses".

FLOORED

Political Orator (winding up) —"I'm sorry I have spoken so long—you see, I heaven't got my watch with me".

Voice from Audience—"Yes, but there was a calendar back of you".

x x x

RETORT

Judge Gruff—"Aren't you ashamed to be seen here in court so often?"

Prisoner—"Why, no, your honour; I always thought it was a very respectable place."

x x x

NO MISS

Overheard near a garage: "The bloke who invented them petrol pumps was clever. Wherever he stuck one up he always found oil. Never a miss."

x x x

HELP-MATE!

Athlete's Wife: The clock's stopped again, George. Would you mind going out and running a mile so that I can time your egg?"

x x x

INFINITE SUPPLY

Quizmaster Bob Hawk asked a contestant whether he could name a product in which the supply exceeds the demand. The contestant's reply: "Trouble".

x x x

x x x

YOU GOT IT?

In a school essay on "Parents" a small girl wrote: "We get our parents when they are so old it is very hard to change their habits".

x x x

VERDICT

A would-be chicken fancier had some difficulty with her flock and wrote the following letter to the Department of Agriculture:

"Something s wrong with my chickens. Every morning when I came out I find two or three lying on the ground cold and stiff with their feet in the air. Can you tell me what is the matter?"

After a little while she received the following letter from the Department:

"Dear Madam. Your chickens are dead."

x x x

IN OTHER WORDS

"If there were three crows on a fence post and I shot one, how many would be left?"

"Two left".

"I'm afraid you don't get the point. Let me repeat the joke. There were three crows on a fence post; I shot one. How many would be left?"

"Two left".

"No. None would be left, because if I shot one, then the other two would fly away".

"Isn't that what I've been saying? Two left".

Strange, Isn't It?

Errant Tunnel

Founded by Napoleon I to keep check on government spending, the French Chamber of Accounts regularly publishes reports on unjustified expenditure of public funds. This year it is the builders of a subterranean motor road through the Pyrenees who have taken the cake. Construction on the tunnel began nine years ago, but when it reached the border, where it was to connect with the Spanish section, the underground passageway, it was found, and "gone astray". The reason? The French builders had simply forgotten to coordinate plans with their Spanish colleagues.

What They Think Of New York

A national poll conducted by the New York Times and CPS News reveals that 65 per cent of the Americans rated New York as a "poor" place to live in. Only 12 per cent said it was an "exeellent" place to visit, 5 per cent replied that it was "good" to live in, and only one of every hundred polled called it "excellent" as a place to live in. The organizers of the poll did not say what the latter's annual income is.

High Cost Of Landing

When the U. S. President visits Plains, his home town in Georgia, reports *"Newsweek"*, his helicopter usually lands on the airfield owned by his old friend, Tom Peterson. The latter used to charge $ 30 a day for the use of the field. When the President came to Plains in May of this year, Peterson raised the fee to $ 100 and just recently upped it again— to $ 200. He is not satisfied, however, considering it insufficient compensation. Even the President is beginning to feel the burden of rising prices, the magazine says.

In Bad Taste

Officials of the U. S. Agriculture Department have dedicated a plaque in its cafeteria to Alferd E. Packer who was convicted in the 19th century for eating human beings. The spirit and the fare of this cafeteria, they say, remind one of this cannibal who once said: "I never met a meal I didn't like".

No Wage Restraint

Unlike most of their constituents, the British M. P.s met with no difficulties getting a pay increse for themselves: all they did was to vote for it. They will now be receiving $ 6,270 a year. But that is not all. They will in fact cost the taxpayer considerably more. There is also an item called M. P.s' expenses which are expected to come to £ 4,8 9,000 all told in the current financial year.

Art Thefts

Rangsarish Chaovanasiri, former general director of Thailand's Department of Fine Arts, retently revealed that about 800 invaluable works of art had disappeared mysteriously from the National Museum. They had been vanishing for many years, he said. The National Auditing Council has estimated the overall loss at about four million bahts and said "somebody" would have to make good this sum. The question is, who is this "somebody"?.

Travel Hazards

The West German Frankfurter Rundschau has warned tourists going to or returning from Italy by night train that they stand in danger of being robbed between Milan and Florence. After the robbers had thrown a conductor out of the train, the conductors lock themselves up in their compartments for the night. Complaints and demands for adequate protection have been of no avail, for the railway police, many believe, are in the pay of the gangsters. All there remains to do is to follow the newspaper's advice and that is not only to lock the door of the compartment but also to barricade oneself from inside.

Could Be Worse

Police made 91 arrests for alleged drug offences at a recent folk festival at Cambridge (England). They also investigated 51 other crimes, mainly thefts. The police evidently thought it could be worse, for its spokesman said that "crowd behaviour was generally good".

Hollywood Celebrity

Hollywood recently honoured a car that had been used in Walt Disney films. Herbie the film-star-Volkswagen became the first car to put its tyre prints among the footprints and handprints of Hollywood celebrities outside Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

Coffee And Gossip

COFFEE, as any coffee-drinker will tell you, stimulates the circulation and boosts performance, albeit temporarily. But you can, of course, drink too much. Professor Wolf Muller-Limmroth, head of the department of labour psychology at munich University, claims that the tendency to gossip encountered at afternoon coffee sessions is not attributable solely to a natural inclination to talk too much; it is often the coffee talking.

POPULAR DRINK

Coffee is the most popular hot drink in Germany. Per capita annual consumption in the Federal Republic totals an impressive 162.1 litres. Compulsive drinkers tend to grow tipsy when they drain cup after cup. They grow restive, more irritable and more aggressive. Above all, they just cannot stop talking. It is the caffeine that does it—a drug that stimulates the nervous system and boosts the activity of the brain and the memory. You may feel it does you a power of good. Whether your audience would agree is another matter.

WRONG NOTION

Yet it would be wrong to assume that because you stay awake longer under the influence of coffee you need less sleep. As every coffee-dringer knows, the feeling of mild elation soon gives way to even greater tiredness, always assuming you were tired in the first place. So Professor Muller-Limmroth's advice is to drink coffee at work only when you are feeling sluggish to start with or need to be particularly quick off the mark and on your toes.

BAD HABIT

The Munichmedic's research work also indicates that a cup of coffee before going to bed is a decidedly bad habit. It not only prevents you from falling asleep but also distrubs the entire sleep pattern. Deep sleep is cut short and light restless sleep, interspersed with restive dreams, lengthened. You wake up feeling distinctly less relaxed than might otherwise have been the case.

UNNECESSARY STRAIN

That cup of coffee as a night-cap to settle the stomach after an evening out is also a bad idea if the body is not subjected to physical strain after the "cuppa." Coffee stimulates the adrenal glands, which step up their hormone output as though the body needed to be in peak condition so as to beat a hasty retreat or launch an attack. It is all an unnecessary strain on the body.

Incident lly, reactions are much the same, albeit less marked, after a cup (or cup after cup) of decaffeinated coffee. So there is obviously more in those beans than meets the eye.

Sunken Viking City

Haithabu is a sunken Viking city near Schleswig on the Baltic coastline of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was flooded about 1,000 years ago and has since been silted up. The mud flats occasionally yield some artifact or other but very little is known about a town that by all accounts have been a major trading centre.

Now that a sunken Norman ship has been retrieved intact (an operation requiring the development of various new techniques) archaeologists are confident of learning more about the city. Haithabu only really did brisk business in summer and autumn, when traders came from all over Western Europe to do business with the primitive Vikings.

It was deserted, or virtually so, in winter, archaeologists now believe, but was nevertheless a major trading port for the entire Baltic region. The first Scandinavian coins were minted here and in all probability a commercial version of the rune alphabet was developed here. Haithabu was certainly a major port with impressive fortifications.

With their appetites whetted by the sunken ship, Kiel University geophysicists have arrived on the scene with sensitive echo-sounding devices capable of pinpointing objects only a foot long. They will be charting the site in a search for further treasure trove.

Coaches Sold

Two luxury railway carriages from the Orient Express were sold on Saturday, in Monaco with a supply of Chateau-bottled wine for $ 124 000. They were bought separately by an American businessman, Mr James Sherwood from Kentucky, and an anonymous buyer, a spokesman for Southeby's, the auctioneers, said. The two coaches were in perfect running condition and travelled the Paris-Instanbul line in 1946 and 1947.

Risk Of The Pill

According to two studies published in a London medical journal last week women who use the pill—especially older women who smoke—run a higher risk of dying of circulatory disease than those who use other forms of contraception.

For The Week 16th October To 22nd October 1977

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

THE whole week will be progressive. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Partnership arrangements could be finalised favourably. Domestic atmosphere will be cloudy. Avoid friction with elders. Health will be well maintained. Short journeys are indicated. You should try to revive old business contacts. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THE first part of the week will be better than the second half. You should try to complete important works during first part of the week and try to relax during rest of the week. There is no major change in office. You should be diplomatic while dealing with your superiors. Family responsibility will increase but you can expect cooperation from your family members. Financial position will be satisfactory. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THIS week will be ordinary. You should not try to expand your activity. It is better to wait for some more time to implement your plans. Domestic responsibility will increase. Matters relating to children require attention. Avoid long distance travel. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THE week starts with emphasis on monetary matters. You will be able to find a new source of income. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Investments made in real property will yield better results. If you are participating in any competitive activity, possibility of winning the prize is more. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. Change of place is indicated for some. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THE whole week is favourable. You will be able to complete some of the long pending problems. You will also expand your business activity. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Health requires attention. Avoid long distance travel unless necessary. Domestic responsibility will increase. But you can expect cooperation from your family members. Favourable days: 17th & 18th.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

THE week shows ordinary results. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Domestic peace is assured. Children's progress will give much pleasure. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

WHOLE week will be progressive. You will be able to complete long pending problems. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Domestic happiness is assured. Business will improve. But avoid taking up extra responsibilities. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyesthta

FIRST half of the week will be favourable. You should try to complete all important work as early as possible. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Short journeys are indicated. Domestic responsibility will increase. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Religious functions are indicated in the family Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

THIS week shows progressive results. You will be expanding your business activity. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will be satisfactory. Domestic happiness is assured. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. Short journeys are indicated. You may be hearing from your friends living in foreign countries. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana-Dhanistha 1/2

THE first part of the week will be favourable than the second half. You should try to complete all important work during the first half of the week. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some time. Domestic responsibility will increase. Avoid friction with family members. Property matters should be handled properly. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 19th & 20th.

★

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadrapada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadrapada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhisha
Purva Badrapada 3/4

The week shows ordinary results. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. There is no major change in office. You should be diplomatic in dealing with your superiors. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. Matters relating to children could be finalized. Short journeys are indicated. Health requires attention. Favourable days: 20th & 21st.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THIS week shows encouraging trends. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. You will get recognition and reward for the efforts you were making from the last month. But avoid friction with associates and partners. Health requires attention. Short journeys are indicated. Domestic atmosphere will be pleasant. Children's progress will give much pleasure. Financial position will improve. Favourable days: 18th & 19th.

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From page

FIR In Indira Case : Some Inconsistencies

borne out by the report of the negotiating committee, the ONGC's recommendations and earlier and later events.

The negotiating committee report says, "the committee examined the rates quoted by CFP for direct costs on the experts—whether in India or France—and found that these compared favourably with those quoted by Geoman." In a technical consultancy contract, the most important part of the expenditure is on experts.

Further, the ONGC had recommended the reaction of the CFP and Geoman because, as the FIR itself says, this would help it crosscheck the work of both. The FIR does not say how the CFP contract did not consider this aspect in the light of the decision by the ONGC, nor does anything in the FIR explain that a contract with Geoman according to the present stage of the negotiations is to be signed soon.

The FIR also contains two contrdictory references in this connection. At one point it speaks of Geoman offering "similar" consultancy services for 4 million dollars. At another it complaints that the negotiating committee did not ask for a "comparable offer".

The report of the negotiating committee says that "in approaching its task of negotiating with the CFP, the committee was fully conscious of the fact that the purchase of consultancy services is utterly unlike the purchase of hardware for which comparable tenders can be floated and bids contained" It says that a great deal depends on the reliability and quality of advice expected, and that it had no reason to doubt CFP, a company with which the ONGC had previously dealt in connections with Bombay High. Besides, the company was partly owned by the French Government, which added its own element of reliability.

In any case, the ONGC had itself ruled that the services of the two companies would not be comparable or similar The committee's report says the ONGC had earlier recommended that "while CFP should be asked to advice on all matters included in the scope of the consultancy under discussion, Geomen would be asked to advise only on certain selected items for a second opinion so to say". The FIR contention that the two offers were similar, resulting in a "loss" of 13 million dollars does not emerge from this.

The FIR is also incomplete on the question of costs. It says that in November 1975 CFP put forward a comprehensive consultancy proposal for a fee of 70 million dollars. The report of the negotiating committee, on the other hand, speaks of an offer in early 1976 of "around 75 million dollars over a five-year period."

In response to this, the Government told CFP that the offer did not conform to its policy of keeping the development of Bombay High entirely within ONGC's control. So the French company came forward with a revised proposal offering a guarantee to take production up to 10 million tonnes a year under a management-cum-technical service contract for a fee of 80 million dollars. The Government told CFP that it did not need the guarantee or the management service, so the company brought its fee down to 35 million dollars over five years.

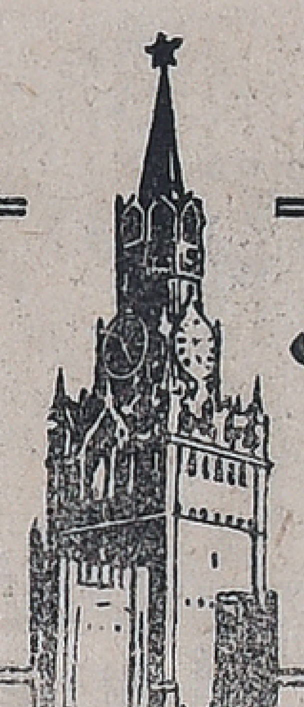
Since this was still felt to be too high, CFP scaled down its services somewhat and put the fee at 22. 7 million dollars. At this point, the negotiating committee held discussions with CFP representatives for ten days and shaved the price to 17 million dollars, at the same time dropping the range of services and reducing the time to four years, "after a great deal of hard bargaining", as the report says.

These price reductions took place at precisely, the time that the FIR says the accused were trying "to push through the CFP proposal whatever the cost."

The FIR gives the impression that because the chairman of the ONGC refused to sign the agreement, the secretary of the Ministry had to sign it on his behalf. In fact, the agreement was signed by the secretary of ONGC.

A comparison of the FIR and the report of the negotiating committee shows that there were differences of opinion between the Ministry and the ONGC which persisted even after the report of the negotiating committee was presented, duly signed by the chairman of the ONGC. There is nothing in either which explains this. Nor is there anything which explains why if, as the FIR alleges, Mr. B. B. Vohra "hurriedly and collusively" pushed through the agreement to the detriment of Geoman and the national exchequer, three other senior officers, two secretaries in the Finance Ministry and the chairman of ONGC should have allowed him to do so, and gone along with the report recommending the agreement with CFP.

—Indian Express.



Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

NEW CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

The important event during the week is the extra-ordinary session of the Soviet Parliament. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR – which opened in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow on 4th October to examine the draft of the New Soviet Constitution. Leonid Brezhnew, Chairman of the Constitutional Commission delivered the main report to the parliament. He said that the nation-wide discussion of the Draft Constitution which lasted almost four months involved more than 140 million people and helped markedly to improve the Draft Constitution. All in all, about 400,000 proposals with amendments to individual articles have been contributed. The Constitutional Commission recommended making alterations in 110 articles of the Draft and adding one new article.

x x x

MUSCOVITES TAKE FAST TO INDIAN CUISINE

Moscow citizens have developed a good taste for Indian arts and literature since many years. But they had no chance in the past to develop a taste for Indian dishes. Now they have an opportunity for it. Indian cuisine has gained rapid popularity among Muscovites with in a few days of the setting up of the first Indian restaurant as part of the festival of Indian Art and Culture.

Sentralny (Central Restaurant, situated in Gorky street, one of the main thoroughfares of Moscow, enjoys great popularity with Muscovites and visitors from abroad for its traditional Russian dishes, regarded by specialists as among the best. Now Sentralny also serves about 30 Indian dishes, among them tanduri chicken, pulao, spiced curries and others.

A B. Pahwa of the Ashoka Hotal, who is there in Moscow to supervise the Indian cooking is all praise for the Soviet cooks who are helping him for their almost instant mastery of Indian cooking, Apart from differences in meat preparations, Mr. Pahwa notes the rich variety of Indian vegetable dishes compared to Soviet cuisine. But the taste of the pudding is in the eating, he says, and from what he has seen so far he is sure that Muscovites have taken fast to Indian cuisine.

x x x

AMERICAN COMPUTER FIRM'S BID FOR SOVIET TECHNOLOGY

Negotiations are in progress between representatives of the American Control Data Company and a Soviet expert's team headed by Prof. Mikhail Ignatiev for the joint production of Soviet-patented high capacity computers known as the "recursion computers."

Built on new technological principles, recursion computers are "an entirely new world in computer technology," and will be able to cope with sophisticated scientific and technological tasks thousands of times quicker than the present ones. The computers now current have only one processor whereas the recursion computers are multi-processor and are capable of coping with problems which are beyond the capacity of traditional computers.

From page 1

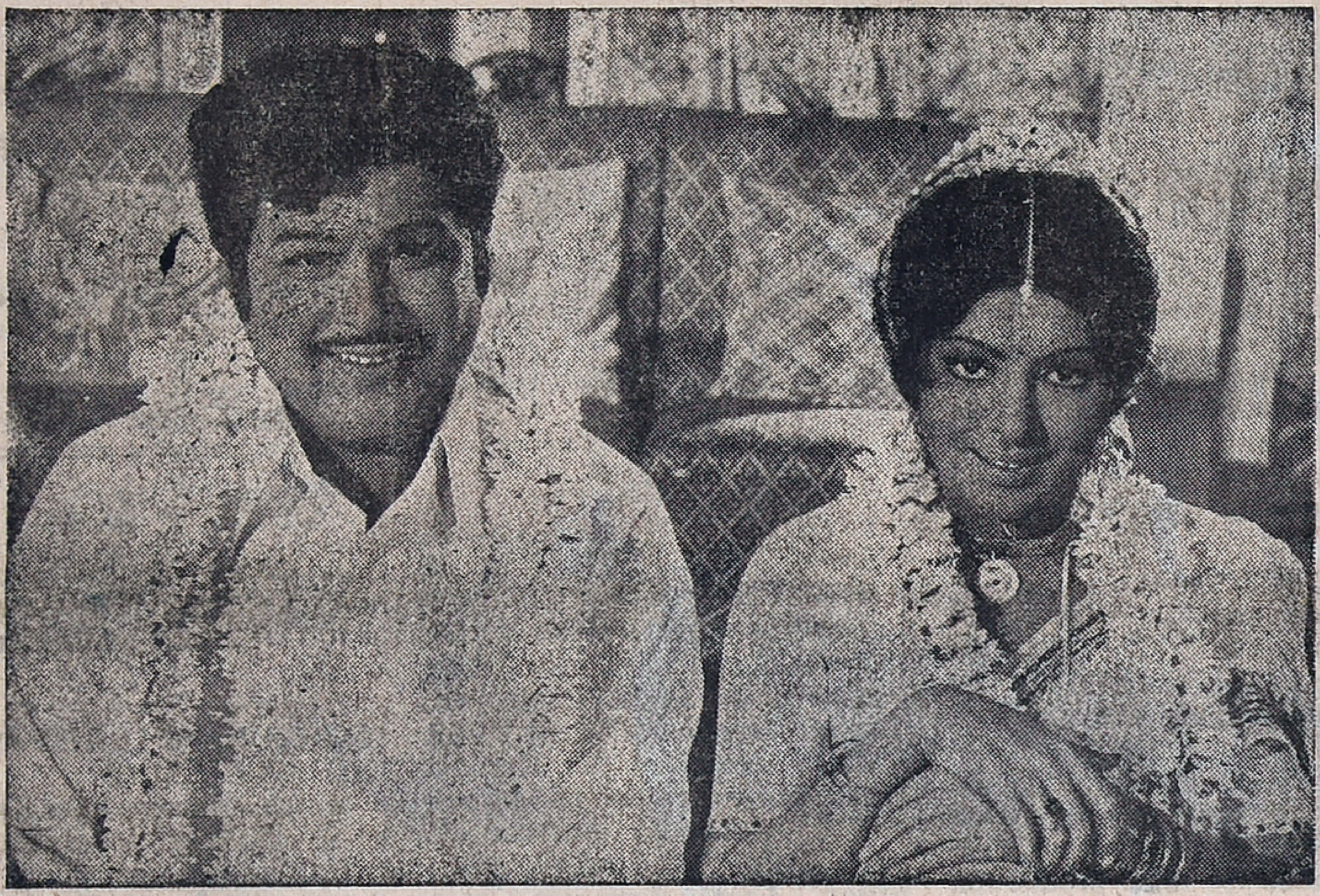
WILL . . . ROLL ?

the actual performance from year to year and (b) a lack of realism? He did not sound much convincing either when he did so or when he tried to make it out that under a system of rolling plans, there would be a qualitative difference in planning.

It is not quite true to say that the erstwhile planners did not pay much attention to plan performances every year and their impact on either the annual plans for the succeeding years or the five-year plan as a whole. The mid-term reviews and subsequent adjustment of the plan targets were in fact the result of these exercises. The claims that the rolling plan strategy will introduce a new element in this process sound rather tall.

As for the charge of a lack of realism, the truth may well be that the erstwhile planners had suffered from a surfeit of it. When in 1971, soon after the general elections which returned the Congress Party with a massive majority in Parliament as well as the State legislatures, a new Planning Commission came into being with Mr. C. Subramaniam as the Planning Minister and Deputy Chairman, a ruthlessness was claimed for it.

Disillusionment, however, set in much sooner than was expected. The severity of the constraints on resources began to be very intensely felt because of drought, damage caused by floods, drying up of foreign aid, etc., and the Planning Commission had no choice but to scale down the plan targets.



Sarada and Jaisankar, who have been teamed together for the first time in a Tamil picture. The above is a scene from P.V.T. Productions' colour film CHARKAVARTHY expected to be released for Deepavali. Produced by P.V. Thulasiraman, it is directed by the veteran directors Krishnan-Panju.

Filmotsav, '78

Filmotsav, '78, a festival of internationally acclaimed festival films from all over the world, will be held in Madras from January 3 to January 17, 1978. This would be the first ever international film festival to be held in the South.

The Festival, which is non-competitive, will bring to Indian audiences celebrated films that have won awards or acclaim at various international film festivals over the past four years. Over 120 countries have been invited to participate. Of the seven theatres in Madras ear, marked for festival screenings-five will be for foreign films, including one for the retrospectives of some of the greatest names in world cinema. A special feature will be the exclusive screening of Indian films in one hall, with the accent on films made this year.

The Indian Motion Pictures Export Corporation will run an International Film Market alongside the festival to promote exchange of films and a closer dialogue on film trade between India and other countries.

Filmotsav, '78 is being organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in Collaboration with the Film Finance Corporation, the Tamil Nadu Government and the Indian Film industry:

FILM REVIEW

Odi vilayadu Thatha

"Buona Sera, Mrs. Campbell" is a fine comedy and the theme in tune with the western styes and traditions.

Can the same be adapted for a Tamil movie, and will the Tamil film goer digest it ?

Director T.N. Balu, who gave us such high class films like "Uyarnthavargal", has taken a chance by adapting it to provide a low-brow comedy with veiled abscenity in K P.K. Films' ODI VILAYADU THATHA.

Balu, besides directing the film, has also written the screenplay and dialogue.

The story (?) is about the manoeuv es of a young wife to save her husband from ignomy and the hands of the police.

V.K. Ramaswamy and Satulirajan, as partners in business, who are being nabbed by a clever girl, provide some hilarious moments. Asokan, as the ex-army man who hunts for a partner in life treats the viewers with some buffoonery. Srikant, as the hero, accused of dealing in conterfeit currency, execels in the climax fighting sequences. Sripriya as Srikanth's wife has done her role well. Though they make a brief appearance, Manorama and Kanthimathi are effective. V.S. Raghavan Jai Ganesh, Ravisanker, Seshadri, Usha and Seetha Chowdry are also in the cast.

Music by Elayaraja is far below his set standard. Photography is by N.K. Viswanathan.

None can beat her in a glamour role ! Rajasulochana has shown time and again that she is one of top glamour star of the Tamil films. She has again proved her mettle in the recently released film GAYATHRI.

Young and charming Jayadevi has acted so well in the film GAYATHRI that she leaves an indelible impression on the viewers as the pitiable first wife of the villain driven to madness bythe unscrupulous ways of her husband.

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